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7-ISSUE  
MINI-SERIES

# THE BATMAN™ WHO LAUGHS™

WHO HAS THE  
LAST LAUGH?

*John*

SNYDER  
JOCK  
BARON

FRANK MILLER • JOHN ROMITA JR.

# SUPERMAN

YEAR  
ONE

**There is no justice without truth.**

**Three 64-page oversize  
prestige-format issues**

**Experience the definitive origin of the Man of Steel!**

**JUNE**



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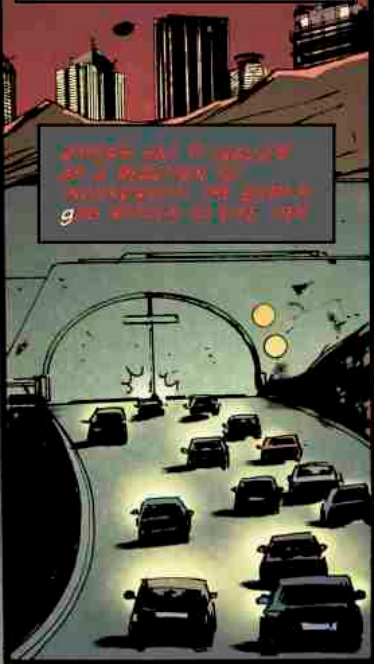
# Gotham City Now.

But what if it's  
simple? Maybe  
happiness is  
just a few  
minutes of  
peace.

Tom! I've got a plan  
to take the city  
back. I'm going  
to be a hero.

It's not a  
question of  
whether or not  
I'm going to  
do it. It's a  
question of  
when.

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I'm going to  
do it. It's a  
question of  
when.



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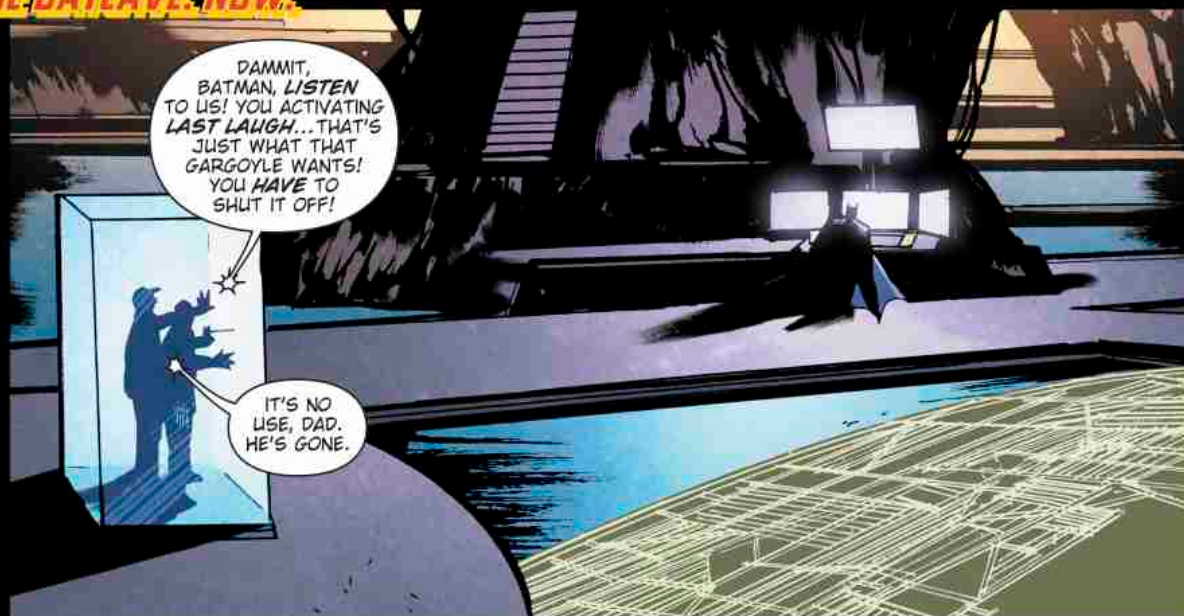
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question of  
when.



It's not a  
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whether or not  
I'm going to  
do it. It's a  
question of  
when.



## THE BATCAVE NOW.



DAMMIT, BATMAN, LISTEN TO US! YOU ACTIVATING LAST LAUGH... THAT'S JUST WHAT THAT GARGOYLE WANTS! YOU HAVE TO SHUT IT OFF!

IT'S NO USE, DAD. HE'S GONE.



NO. I'M NOT. NOT YET.

SIR, YOUR... YOUR TOXICITY LEVELS...



...I SEE MAYBE TEN PERCENT HEALTHY BLOOD CELLS LEFT. THE SLIGHTEST RISE IN ACTIVITY AND YOU'LL CROSS THE THRESHOLD.



YOU NEED TO SLOW DOWN, MAYBE GO INTO CRYO--

I SAID. NOT YET.



THEN WHY, BATMAN?! WHY DID YOU SET OFF THE PROTOCOL?

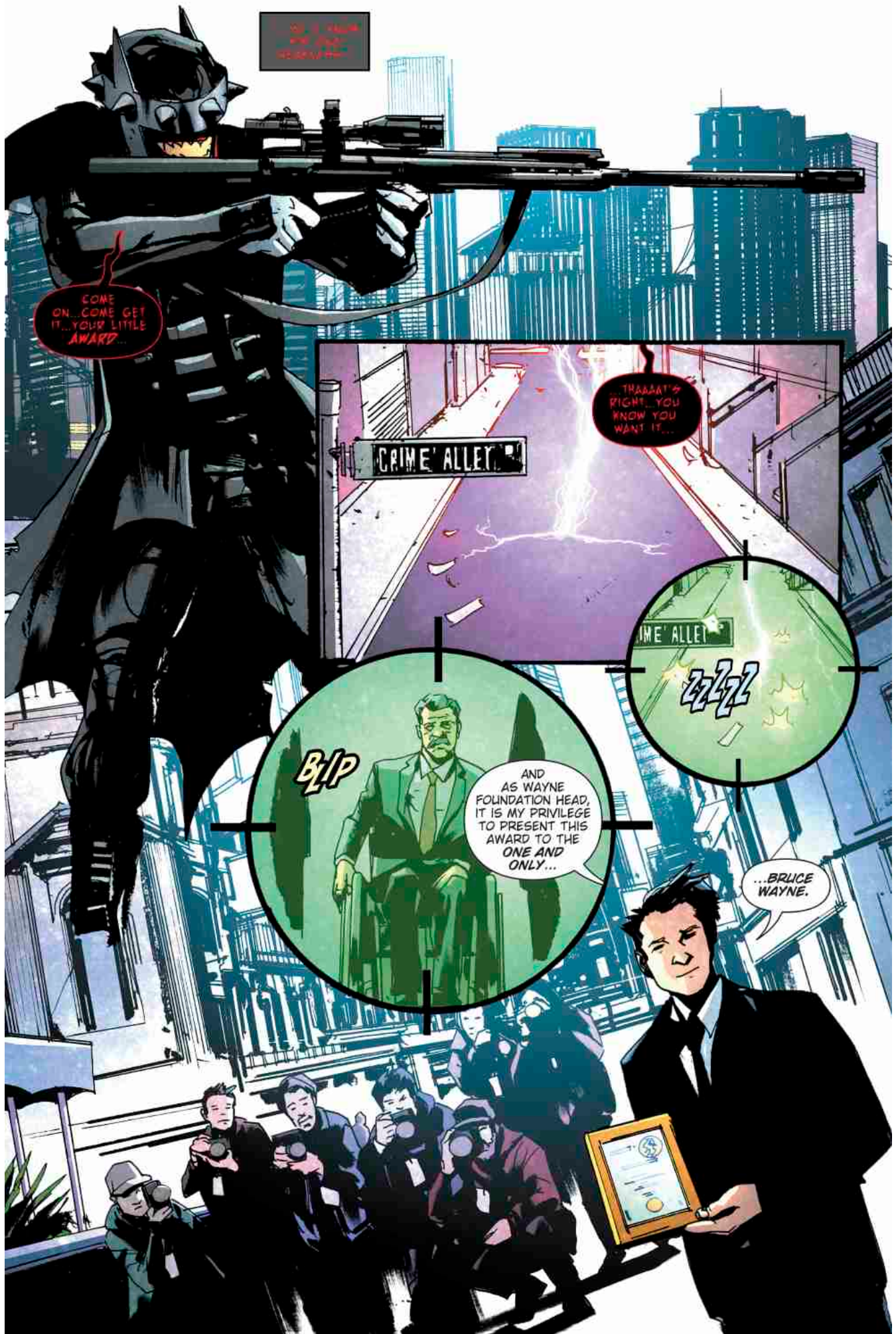
BECAUSE, JIM. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

LAST LAUGH CO-OPTS THE CITY'S POWER GRID. THE GRIM KNIGHT WILL LIKELY BE ABLE TO HACK INTO IT IN A MATTER OF HOURS, TAKE IT OVER... BUT UNTIL THEN, WE CONTROL IT.

WE CONTROL THE CITY'S POWER.







WE'VE FOUND  
THE TARGET  
RECORDING UNIT

COME  
ON... COME GET  
IT... YOUR LITTLE  
AWARD...



...THAAAAT'S  
RIGHT... YOU  
KNOW YOU  
WANT IT...



AND  
AS WAYNE  
FOUNDATION HEAD,  
IT IS MY PRIVILEGE  
TO PRESENT THIS  
AWARD TO THE  
ONE AND  
ONLY...



...BRUCE  
WAYNE.





WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE HAD THE FORESIGHT, THE VISION, TO USE HIS OWN MONEY TO *PRIVATIZE* THE CITY SERVICES?

POLICE, TO EDUCATION, TO SANITATION...

...IN FACT, HERE IN GOTHAM, PEOPLE CALL HIM THE *B.A.T. MAN*, BECAUSE, WELL, HE'S THE MAN WHO "*BUYS ALL THINGS*."

AND IN DOING SO, HE'S MADE ALL OF GOTHAM PART OF HIS *FAMILY*. HERE, BRUCE, FOR YOU, FROM ALL OF US. ME, DICK, J, BABS, STEPH, DAMIAN, CASS... EVERYONE.

THE BAT STAMP IS GOLD.



FFF. GOLD FLAKE. CHEAP-ASS KIDS.

AWW, IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

BRUCE? IS THAT YOU?

IT IS, MONSTER. NOW WATCH YOUR TARGET CLOSELY...

KLIK

BLAM

...AS I MAKE HIM DISAPPEAR BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!!!!



TIM, THANK YOU SO MU--

BIP

WELL, WELL... AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE, BRUCE. STILL FIGHTING THE CHANGE, THOUGH. EHE I GIVE YOU, OH, ANOTHER HOUR, MAYBE LESS. SO ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.

HA, OH, I'M ENJOYING IT PLENTY...





...NOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY.

SEE, RIGHT NOW, I'VE TRANSFERRED POWER AWAY FROM EVERY SITE IN GOTHAM THAT CONTAINS DARK METAL, EXCEPT ONE.



THE BIGGEST, RIGHT HERE, UNDER THE MANOR.

AN... LOOK AT YOU, TAKING CONTROL. LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU? THAT VORTEX OF DARK ENERGY YOU'VE CREATED. MAKING SURE IT WORKS...



AND WITH THAT MUCH POWER, THE PORTAL MUST BE MASSIVE... YOU CAN LIKELY SEE HUNDREDS, MAYBE THOUSANDS OF BRUCE'S ACROSS THE DARK...



YOU WANT ENOUGH SERUM TO INFECT THE WHOLE CITY? COME GET IT.

HA HA! IT WON'T TAKE THE GRIM KNIGHT VERY LONG TO BREAK YOUR HOLD ON THE POWER GRID, OR FOR YOU TO FINISH YOUR TRANSFORMATION. WHAT'S TO KEEP ME FROM JUST WAITING YOU OUT?

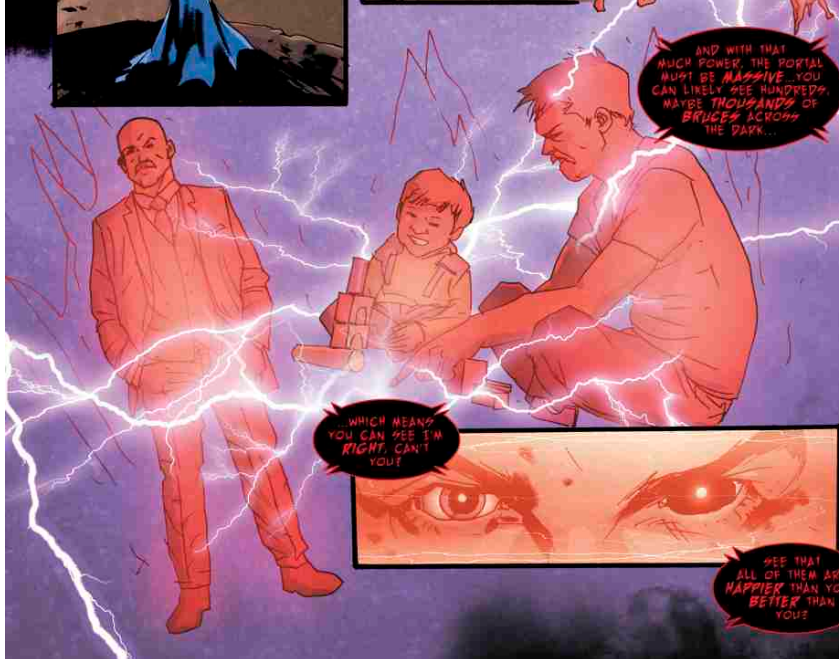
BUT MY QUESTION TO YOU IS THIS, BRUCE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY?

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING, LOOKING AT ALL THOSE VERSIONS OF USE?



YES, I LOOK BETTER WITH HAIR.

NOW, BE HERE IN ONE HOUR. I'LL BRING THROUGH THE LAST BRUCE WAYNE.



WHICH MEANS YOU CAN SEE I'M RIGHT, CAN'T YOU?



SEE THAT ALL OF THEM ARE HAPPIER THAN YOU? BETTER THAN YOU?



MAYBE I'VE TAKEN MY OWN PRECAUTIONS.



YOU'RE BLURRING, BEHIND. I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH SERUM TO CHANGE MOST OF THE CITY...

"MOST" ISN'T WINNING, IS IT?

"I HOPE THIS WORKS..."



DEFENSES  
ANALYZING...

WHAT  
NOW?

I GUESS WE  
WAIT TO SEE IF IT  
OPENS OR IT KILLS US.  
BATMAN SAID HE CODED  
IT TO OUR DNA, BUT...  
LOOK AT HIM. I DON'T  
KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK  
ANYMORE.

DAD, LISTEN,  
I...I WANT TO  
TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT  
SOMETHING.

DAD?

~~-SIGH-~~  
JAMES...  
DON'T.

I HAVE TO. PLEASE...I KNOW  
I CAN NEVER MAKE UP FOR  
WHAT I'VE DONE, WHO  
I'VE *BEEEN*...

...SO MUCH  
SO THAT THE OTHER  
NIGHT, I *WAS* GOING TO  
THROW THE MEDICINE IN THE  
RESERVOIR. BECAUSE BEING  
DECENT, BEING GOOD...IT'S  
ALMOST ALL *PAIN*.

BUT I DIDN'T GIVE  
IN. BECAUSE THESE  
LAST FEW DAYS, WORKING  
WITH BATMAN...WITH  
YOU...I WANT TO  
*TRY*. I DO.

I'M ASKING  
YOU TO LET ME  
COMPLETE THE  
PROGRAM.

PLEASE,  
DAD, LOOK  
AT ME.

...  
I'M SORRY,  
JAMES, BUT  
*NO*.





...  
BUT IF  
YOU'LL HEAR  
ME OUT--

NO,  
DAMMIT!  
JUST...  
JUST NO.

LOOK, ALL THOSE YEARS  
I *TRUSTED* THAT... THAT YOU  
WERE FIGHTING THE EVIL IN YOU,  
EVEN WHEN NO ONE ELSE DID. I  
BELIEVED THAT BENEATH IT ALL, YOU  
WERE GOOD. BUT IT WAS ALL,  
ALWAYS, A *MASK*. A MASK  
YOU WERE WEARING.

LOOK, MAYBE  
ONE DAY I'LL BE ABLE TO  
BELIEVE YOU AGAIN. BUT...  
I'M NOT *READY*, JAMES.  
I'M SOR--

ANALYSIS  
CLEAR.



ARMORY  
OPEN.

ENTER AT  
YOUR OWN  
RISK.



THAT... IS A LOT OF  
BATARANG GUNS.

LISTEN, JAMES,  
I PROMISE YOU THAT  
WHEN THEY RE-INCARCERATE  
YOU, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE...  
TREATED WELL. THAT  
WHATEVER PROGRAMS  
WE HAVE--

IT'S OKAY,  
DAD. REALLY.  
I UNDERSTAND.  
HERE, COME  
ON...



"...WE HAVE A WAR  
TO PREPARE FOR."

SIR, PLEASE!  
YOU'RE DOWN TO LESS  
THAN FIVE PERCENT  
HEALTHY BLOOD  
CELLS!

YOU DO THIS,  
YOU FIGHT HIM, YOU EXERT  
YOURSELF IN ANY WAY THAT  
GETS YOUR BLOOD PUMPING  
AND YOU'LL BE LOST!  
YOU NEED TO... TO DO  
SOMETHING.

I AM DOING  
SOMETHING. JUST  
PROMISE ME THAT  
YOU'LL STICK TO THE  
PLAN, ALFRED AND  
WHEN THE BATMAN WHO  
LAUGHS GETS HERE...  
YOU'LL STAY  
AWAY.

I... I DON'T  
WANT YOU FACING  
THAT DEMON  
ALONE.

ALFRED, I  
MEANT STAY  
AWAY FROM  
ME.

IT ALL COMES  
DOWN TO THIS



Everything  
depends on  
whether or  
not we can  
all let go  
of our fears

What if  
we can't  
let go  
of our fears



THERE'S A MOUNTAIN  
RIGHT THERE, A  
MOUNTAIN THAT'S BEEN  
WICKED UP



The MOUNTAIN  
THE MOUNTAIN  
THE MOUNTAIN  
THE MOUNTAIN  
THE MOUNTAIN



THE MOUNTAIN  
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AW, THAT'S WHAT I SAID WHEN I WAS WHERE YOU ARE IN MY TRANSFORMATION. I EVEN CALLED THE FAMILY OVER TO LET THEM KNOW IT'D ALL BE OKAY.

WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR THEM, I GOT A PITCHER OF WATER FOR THE TABLE. THAT'S ALL THE EXERTION IT TOOK.



AND WHEN THE FAMILY ARRIVED, I KILLED THEM ALL.

THEN I DRANK A COOL GLASS OF WATER.

I'LL ADMIT, I DON'T SEE YOUR PLAN HERE.

I MEAN, YOU FIGHT ME, YOU'LL CHANGE IN NO TIME.

BUT DO NOTHING, AND I GET WHATEVER BRUCE YOU'RE PULLING THROUGH YOUR PORTAL. SO WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?



COME CLOSER. I'LL SHOW YOU.



HA! I LIKE YOU, BRUCE. YOU KNOW WHAT...?

...YOU MAY BE THE WORST BATMAN...

...BUT YOU'LL MAKE A DAMN GOOD ME.







IF YOU  
CAN HEAR ME, I'M  
AT THE FINAL  
DOORWAY.



DEFENSES  
WERE THICK,  
BUT I'M DOWN  
TO TWO  
BATS.



INTRUDER,  
STAND DOWN,  
OR—





NOW  
I'M AT THE  
WATERING  
HOLE.  
STANDING  
RIGHT ABOVE  
THE DROP.



AND THERE  
ARE NO BATS  
LEFT--



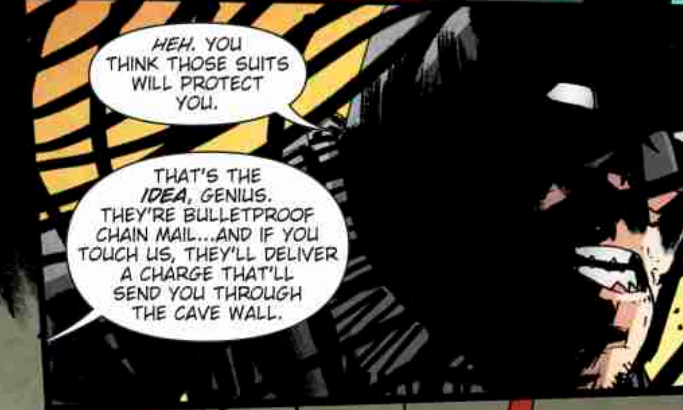




I DON'T  
KNOW THAT I'D  
CALL US **OFFICIAL**  
BATS, BUT  
HEY...



...WE'RE  
OUT FOR  
YOUR **BLOOD**  
AND WE HAVE  
REALLY BAD  
**EYESIGHT**.  
SO...HERE'S  
HOPING WE  
QUALIFY.



HEH. YOU  
THINK THOSE SUITS  
WILL PROTECT  
YOU.

THAT'S THE  
**IDEA**, GENIUS.  
THEY'RE BULLETPROOF  
CHAIN MAIL...AND IF YOU  
TOUCH US, THEY'LL DELIVER  
A CHARGE THAT'LL  
SEND YOU THROUGH  
THE CAVE WALL.



WOW.  
SCARY.

BUT SEE, I'VE  
STUDIED YOUR BATMAN'S  
ARMORY. EVEN HIS MOST  
ADVANCED TECH ISN'T  
**BEYOND** ME.

I'M  
BEYOND  
IT.



AGH!



NO MORE  
GADGETS AND  
TRICKS, JIM. THIS  
IS YOU AND ME,  
STANDING ON THE  
ROOF IN THE  
RAIN...





...ONE LAST TIME!



YOU WANT ME, YOU @#%#?

WE FINISHED YOU ON YOUR WORLD, WE'LL FINISH YOU HERE!

COME AND GET ME!

"WE"? HA! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR SON ON MY WORLD, JIM?

YOU WERE SO BUSY HUNTING ME THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR HIM.

YOU LOCKED HIM AWAY, FORGOT ABOUT HIM.

OTHERS TRIED TO HELP HIM...BRUCE WAYNE, EVEN ME...BUT ANY TIME WE TRIED, YOU NEVER BELIEVED IN HIM.

EVENTUALLY, HE HUNG HIMSELF IN PRISON.



YOUR WORLD MEANS NOTHING HERE!

"IT'S JUST A MASK," YOU SAID.

"IT'S JUST A HUMAN MASK HE'S WEARING..."

SOUND FAMILIAR, JAMES?







...YOU'RE  
ALMOST ALL  
HIM!

A BAT IS  
THE ONLY MAMMAL  
ON THE PLANET  
THAT CAN FLY.

IT'S JOB  
IS TO SHOW US  
HOW TO EVOLVE, BECOME  
OUR BEST SELVES, AND OUR  
BEST SELVES ARE THE  
ONES THAT WIN.

SEE, EVERY  
SINGLE VERSION OF US I  
PULLED THROUGH, THE HAPPIEST  
VERSIONS, THEY'RE ALL *SELFISH*.  
THEY GAVE UP ON IDEALS TO  
COMPROMISE... TO WIN.  
THEY ARE *BATS*!

BUT YOU... YOU  
HOLD PEOPLE'S FEET TO  
THE *SHIT* & DIRT.

SO YOU CAN  
BRING FORTH WHATEVER  
VERSION OF US YOU  
CHOOSE.

HELL, YOU  
DON'T KNOW A SINGLE  
VERSION OF BRUCE  
WAYNE THAT WAS, IS, OR  
WILL EVER BE... TRULY  
*HAPPY*.

...  
I KNOW  
ONE.







"...IT'S  
MINE."

HE DOESN'T  
BELIEVE IN YOU,  
JAMES! HE DOESN'T  
LOVE YOU!

STOP  
SAYING  
THAT!

TAK



YOU KNOW  
I'M RIGHT!

UHH!



WHAT THE  
HELL DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT LOVE? I LOVE MY SON  
WITH EVERY DAMN BONE IN MY  
BODY! I LOVE HIM WHETHER  
HE'S GOOD OR  
HE'S...OR--



HA! OR  
WHAT?!

YOU CAN'T  
EVEN SAY IT.  
A PSYCHOPATH.  
A KILLER. A  
MONSTER...

...YOU CAN'T SAY  
IT BECAUSE IT'S WHAT  
YOU BELIEVE.

IT'S WHAT **EVERYONE**  
BELIEVES ABOUT YOU, JAMES.  
WHAT THEY'LL **ALWAYS**  
BELIEVE.

YOU KNOW IT.  
DEEP DOWN, YOU DO. SO  
GIVE YOUR FATHER WHAT HE  
WANTS. GIVE THEM **ALL** WHAT  
THEY WANT. YOU WERE  
HAPPIER THAT WAY, YOU  
WERE PERFECT.

DON'T LISTEN  
TO...GAK...  
TO HIM, JAMES!  
PLEASE! PLEASE  
HELP ME!





JAMES...  
->KOFF->  
PLEASE! I  
LOVE YOU! I  
->KOFF->

--JAMES!



OH NO...NO,  
JAMES ->GAK->  
PLEASE! I WAS  
WRONG!



NO.  
YOU  
WEREN'T.



"YOU THOUGHT THE  
BOY WAS YOUR  
AGE, EH?"





THAT I'D GO AFTER HIM FOR MY SERUM!

I WON'T LET YOU NEAR HIM!



FINE, BECAUSE I DON'T NEED HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU--  
AGH!



HEH, GET READY TO LAUGH, BRUCE... BECAUSE FOR ALL THE DARK TRUTHS I'VE SHOWN YOU...

THUNK

UNH!



...ABOUT YOU, ABOUT YOUR CITY... I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A FUNNY ONE RIGHT NOW.



BRUCE, YOUR LEVELS, CAN YOU HEAR ME? I SEE NO HEALTHY BLOOD CELLS LEFT! NONE!



SEE, THE HAPPIEST BRUCE WAYNE IN ALL OF EXISTENCE ISN'T THAT BOY, OR ANY BRUCE I BROUGHT THROUGH, EITHER...

...NO, THE HAPPIEST BRUCE WAYNE-- THE ONE I'LL USE FOR THE LAST BIT OF MY SERUM-- IS THE VERSION WHO FINALLY LETS GO OF HIS SADNESS, HIS MISTAKEN IDEALS...

...AND BECOMES WHO HE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE... THE TRUE BAT OF GOTHAM.

MEANING, THE HAPPIEST BRUCE IN EXISTENCE...



NO!



# THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

PART 6

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JOCK Artist

DAVID BARON Colors

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JOCK Cover

JENNY FRISON Variant Cover

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with BILL FINGER

...IS YOU,  
RIGHT AT  
THIS VERY  
MOMENT...

...RIGHT  
NOW, WHEN  
YOU BECOME...  
**ME.**

AND I HEARD  
it then...  
and I heard  
it now...

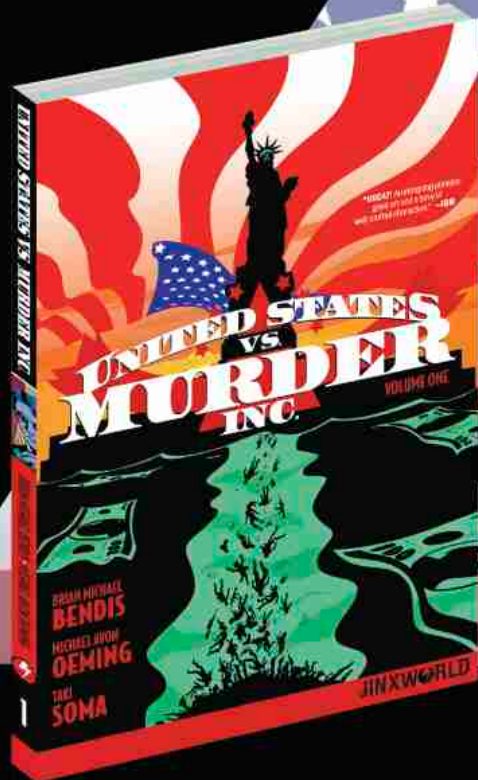
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF THE  
BUTY  
MOMENT...

NEXT: ALL ROADS LEAD HOME



THE UNITED STATES IS BEING RIPPED APART.  
THE FIVE FAMILIES ARE GOING TO PUT IT BACK TOGETHER.

# UNITED STATES vs. MURDER INC.



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"GREAT! AN INTRIGUING PREMISE,  
GREAT ART AND A BEVY OF  
WELL-CRAFTED CHARACTERS."

—IGN



ALSO AVAILABLE

**JINXWORLD**

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS  
MICHAEL AVON OEMING

FROM THE EISNER AWARD-WINNING CREATORS OF *POWERS* • JUNE



FRANK MILLER • JOHN ROMITA JR.

# SUPERMAN

YEAR ONE

"I think this kind of storytelling is going to set a precedent."

—John Romita Jr.



A **DC NATION** interview with **JOHN ROMITA JR.** part two

**What's it like working with Frank Miller, Danny Miki and Alex Sinclair?**

First, working with Danny and Alex has been amazing because we are all artists. This is not one artist and an inker and a colorist. And even Frank is an artist, so there are actually four artists on this book.

Having a brilliant group of artists has been amazing—I cannot quantify it. It's why it is as good as it is. Danny has gone through more liquid ink than any human being in this business because of the size of the paper. I'm just using graphite—pencils and erasers—but all that ink, it's almost comical if it weren't so difficult. Everyone is putting their heart and soul in it.

With Frank, we've done this format before where he gives me a plot and allows me to run, and then he'll fill the dialogue in according to the artwork, so to speak. I love it this way. It is daunting because it's 200 pages, and there is a lot of room to play with, and a lot of area to fill, and I didn't really go by the lore of Superman when I filled in these anecdotal vignettes of youth. I kind of brought some of the things I experienced—football playing, running into bullies and dealing with crushes as an adolescent. I tried to do that because there are areas that you can't print out to use as reference. So I tried to give some of my own experiences in those moments.

And then Frank brought in Clark going into the Navy. And I was able to run with that as Clark goes to the SEALs. Frank even contacted the SEALs to take a look at this and they gave us their approval, which was so great. And it all

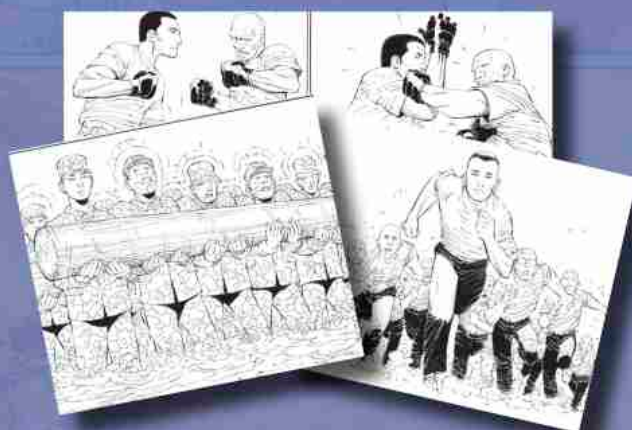
makes perfect sense for Clark. He's living in the Midwest, but he's from a planet that has oceans. So at one point he thinks "I need to be near water!" So joining the Navy is a very normal progression. He goes to his parents for advice and then a short time later, he's joining the Navy.

I think this kind of storytelling is going to set a precedent—the size and scope of the story—I don't know if I'd jump at doing another story like this immediately, but maybe again in a few years.

**What should first-time readers know before picking this up?**

If they have any memories of their youth, they'll be able to appreciate this. It parallels any person's adolescence. Even a super-being has trouble with romance, deals with bullies and learns from their parents.

**GET SUPERMAN: YEAR ONE  
#1 ON JUNE 19**



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*The Last Kryptonian-DCP*

